

STANLEY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1877.

THE results arising from the damage done to railways and railway bridges is assuming quite a serious aspect to others besides the Railway companies themselves. During the last week, on Northern mail reached us till Thursday, then on Friday half the mail arrived, and finally, on Saturday, the remainder of the mail came to hand.

For passengers too, the difficulties also are gradually vanishing. But our merchants complain that their troubles are just beginning. Christmas is near at hand, and the choice selections of Christmas goods are not on the shelves, but lying in depots near to bridgeless streams. This several weeks may pass, and as the end of the month draws near, the number of packages flying over the road amounts to thousands. Therefore freights piled back in cars will stand a poor chance of receiving attention. We were told by an employee in the service of the road that some three weeks would probably elapse ere freights would be run over the R. & D. Road. While this does not interfere with goods ordered now, it does interfere with those goods on the road when the floods came.

On the other hand, when we consider the losses imposed on the companies we see that they were immense. Large extents of track, trestles, bridges, telegraph wires, &c., all were injured thereby.

The latter part of last month was indeed a sad time for our State. Death and destruction on land, and death and destruction by sea.

THE WRECK OF THE HURON.

About one o'clock, on the morning of the 28th ult., the United States man-of-war HURON, went ashore on the coast of this State; and was an entire wreck. Of the 134 men on board over one hundred perished. No entirely satisfactory explanation of the cause of the disaster has yet been advanced. It is supposed by some that her engines were broken, by others that her compass was out of order, and by yet others that she was manned by an incompetent crew. The scene of the disaster was two miles north of Life Saving Station No. 7, and eight miles below Kitty Hawk. All along the coast at this point there is a rough line of breakers, with a strong current tending steadily toward them. Here the HURON struck. Had the Life Station been manned, it is claimed by some that no lives would have been lost, at least very few. Yet Congress does not permit these stations to be manned till the 1st of December, and thus the month of November, with all its storms, is unprovided for. Besides this bitter complaint are being brought against the Storm Signal Service. It is claimed that had the authorities at Washington established a storm signal station at so prominent a position as Fort Monroe the HURON could have profited thereby. But there was none and what was done by the HURON may be done by other vessels, viz: put to sea in the very face of a storm. Whatever hypothesis may prove to be correct and whatever false, one thing is certain, and that is that another terrible catastrophe is to be added to the long list of horrors which occasionally visit those who traverse the deep in the service of trade or in the service of their country.

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We see that Congress has taken steps to officially recognize the service done to the world in general by the explorations of Stanley. Resolutions have been introduced which advise the proper Committee to enquire into the feasibility of opening up a commercial connection with so populous a section as the centre of Africa has been discovered to be. Over 200,000,000 of people are now placed for the first time before the Christianized world. These people are steeped in the depths of barbarism, and the slave trade exists among them. It is well that the country officially makes advances towards the work of beginning their civilization. The great mass of Stanley are spoken of as being the greatest results to the world at large since the discovery of America by Columbus.

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